

WE CLAIM:

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5 1 A method of printing digital data on a photograph wherein the data is image data from a camera system and that image data transformed by an image processing program, the method including the steps of:

- 10 a) receiving image data corresponding to an image from a camera system;
b) loading into said camera system an image processing program;
c) transforming said image data using said image processing program;
d) converting said original image data and said transformed image data into an encoded fault tolerant digital form;
15 e) printing out said encoded fault tolerant digital form of said original image data and said transformed image data using an ink jet printing process with an invisible ink on a surface of a print media while simultaneously printing out said original image data as a photographic image in a visual, human readable form on the same surface of the said print media.

20 2. A method of printing digital data on a photograph according to claim 1 wherein the invisible ink is an infra-red absorbing ink with negligible absorption in the visible spectrum.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein converting said data to said fault tolerant encoded form comprises forming a Reed-Solomon encoded version of said image.

25 4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fault tolerant encoded form of said data includes applying a high frequency modulation signal to said fault tolerant encoded form such that said permanent record includes repeatable high frequency spectral components.

30 5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said high frequency modulation signal comprises a checkerboard two dimensional spatial signal.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of printing out utilizes a print roll means storing said print media and an ink supply for printer means which is detachable from said camera device forming said photograph.

5 7. An apparatus for printing in invisible ink encoded fault tolerant digital data on a photograph, said apparatus including:

a) a camera system for imaging an image including means for outputting said image in a digital format; said camera system further including means for inputting an image processing program;

10 b) means for processing said digital format of said image into a transformed version of said image according to steps of said image processing program;

c) means for converting said digital format of said image and said transformed version of said image into a fault tolerant encoded digital form;

15 d) means for printing said image and said fault tolerant encoded digital form using an ink jet printing process said fault tolerant encoded digital form being printed using an infra-red ink.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the invisible ink is an infra-red absorbing ink with negligible absorption in the visible spectrum.

20 9. An apparatus for printing in infra-red ink encoded fault tolerant digital data on a photograph as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for printing employs a pagewidth printhead using an ink jet structure with a print roll feeding print media therethrough.

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